

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently amended)** An apparatus for heating at least one fuel cell to an optimized operating temperature, comprising:
  - ~~at least one fuel cell;~~
  - a resistive conductor attached to a source of electricity, said resistive conductor being configured for close proximity to at least one fuel cell;
  - a smart controller for automatically optimizing an amount of electrical current in said resistive conductor so as to maintain said at least one fuel cell at an optimized operating temperature, said smart controller comprising:
    - at least one voltage sensor for measuring an output of the at least one fuel cell;
    - at least one temperature sensor for monitoring a temperature of the at least one fuel cell;
    - at least one ~~current~~ heater control component that modifies the amount of electrical current ~~flowing~~ in said resistive conductor so as to optimize said output of the at least one fuel cell; and
    - a host interface for communications between said smart controller and a consumer electronic device that is powered by said fuel cell.
  - ~~an insulating material that surrounds said at least one fuel cell and said resistive conductor.~~
2. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one fuel cell comprises at least one fuel cell stack.
3. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said resistive conductor contains metal.
4. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said source of electricity is at least one of a battery, a fuel cell, and a power cord attached to a conventional wall plug.

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein said at least one current control component includes~~ further comprising at least one temperature transducer communicatively coupled to said temperature sensor.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at ~~least one current control component~~ voltage sensor includes at least one ammeter ~~for measuring the output of the at least one fuel cell~~.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein said at least one current control component includes a smart controller for automatically modifying the amount of electrical current in said resistive conductor.~~ further comprising an insulating material configured to surround said at least one fuel cell and said resistive conductor.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one ~~current~~ heater control component includes a switch capable of switching electrical current on and off.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one fuel cell includes at least one solid oxide fuel cell.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a wherein said smart controller capable of monitoring and~~ further comprises a pump control for controlling fuel delivery into the at least one fuel cell.

12.-37. (Canceled)

38. (New) A method for heating at least one fuel cell to an optimized operating temperature, comprising:

measuring, by a smart controller, an output voltage of at least one fuel cell, wherein said smart controller is communicatively coupled to a host consumer electronic device via a host interface, and wherein said host consumer electronic device is powered by said fuel cell;  
measuring, by said smart controller, a temperature of the at least one fuel cell;

adjusting, by said smart controller, said temperature of the at least one fuel cell, wherein said adjusting comprises modifying an amount of electrical current in a resistive conductor positioned in close proximity to the at least one fuel cell, so as to optimize said output voltage of the at least one fuel cell.

39. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein the at least one fuel cell comprises at least one fuel cell stack.

40. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said resistive conductor contains metal.

41. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said resistive conductor is coupled to a source of electricity comprising at least one of a battery, a fuel cell, and a power cord attached to a conventional wall plug.

42. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said measuring, by said smart controller, a temperature of the at least one fuel cell comprises receiving a measurement from at least one temperature transducer communicatively coupled to said smart controller.

43. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said measuring, by a smart controller, an output voltage of at least one fuel cell comprises receiving a measurement from at least one ammeter communicatively coupled to said smart controller.

44. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said at least one fuel cell and said resistive conductor are surrounded by an insulating material.

45. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said modifying an amount of electrical current in a resistive conductor comprises turning electrical current in said resistive conductor on and off via a switch.

46. (New) A method according to claim 38, wherein said at least one fuel cell includes at least one solid oxide fuel cell.

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47. (New) A method according to claim 38, further comprising controlling fuel delivery into the at least one fuel cell via a pump control included in said smart controller.